

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown in the attached LISTING OF THE CLAIMS.

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees.

The present application is a division of parent application U.S. Serial No. 09/498,749, filed February 7, 2000. Accordingly, a cross-referencing statement has been added to the specification. Also, the specification for the division has been amended to place it in the same form as that of the 09/498,749 application.

As to the claims, first claims 1-23 and 26-30 have been cancelled. They have been prosecuted in the parent. Second, claim 39 has been amended to correct an omission which became clear from comparing the last line of claim 34 with the last line of claim 35. Third, new claims 40-48 have been added. They are supported by the original disclosure.

Respectfully submitted,
SMITH GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Makuch', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Makuch, Reg. No. 32,263
1850 M. Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: (202) 263-4300
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329

July 14, 2003

MARKED UP COPY OF SPECIFICATION

Please amend the second and third paragraph beginning on page 1, “Related Art of the Invention” and continuing onto page 2 as follows:

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 7-311997 (corresponding to JP Laid-open H8-229481) discloses a coating apparatus for intermittently coating a paint to a base material which is running continuously. This apparatus adopts such a method that winds a base material in a field of batteries around a back roll and disposes a nozzle at a location opposed to the base material, and repeats feeding of the paint to the nozzle and stop of the feeding, thereby forming portions not coated with the paint, that is, lead welding portions on the base material.

However, when a paste for batteries is intermittently coated as a paint to a collector material by the coating apparatus disclosed by Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 7-311997, an active substance layer is coated approximately 20 mm from the coating start terminal of the active substance layer in a running direction of the collector material as shown in FIG. 7, whereby the active substance layer of a thickly coated portion may be peeled off and drop down at a subsequent rolling step. It is considered that this defect is caused by the fact that because a feeding path and a return path are momentarily set to simultaneously opened status at the time of switching the feeding path and the return path at the intermittent time by moving a head used as intermittent means, thereby the paint excessively flows from the return side into the feeding said, or the nozzle. Accordingly, the layer is coated thicker for an amount of the paint which excessively flows into the nozzle at a coating start time.